

The British Agricultural History Society
Annual Report for the Financial Year
1 February 2017 to 31 January 2018
Charity Number 251851

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Examiner

Mrs Zoe Crumby, FMATT
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Objects of the Society

The Society exists to promote the study of agricultural history and the history of rural economy and society. It does this through the publication of its biannual journal *The Agricultural History Review*, and its newsletter, *Rural History Today*, and by holding at least two conferences each year. These activities are contained in the Society's constitution adopted at its foundation in 1953, and subsequently modified at the Society's Annual General Meetings in 2000 and 2016.

Executive Committee (Trustees) after elections at the AGM 3 April 2017

Dr J Broad (President)

Prof H French (Chair)

Dr B Linsley (Secretary)

Dr W Shannon (Treasurer)

Prof R W Hoyle (Editor)

Dr B McDonagh (Book Review Editor)

Dr J Bowen

Dr P Brassley

Dr R Ford

Dr J Gayton

Dr C Griffin

Dr C Griffiths

Dr S Holland

Prof J Martin

Prof K Sayer

Dr A Wadsworth

Dr N Whyte

Report on Activities during the Financial Year

Publishing

This continues to be the principal means by which the Society fulfils its objectives. The Society published two issues of *The Agricultural History Review*, Volume 65 (2017) in June and December. Back numbers of the Review are freely available to all via the website, three years in arrears: the website currently has copies up to 2014 (vol 62). The Society also published two issues of the newsletter *Rural History Today* (nos 33 and 34), which is widely distributed beyond the membership of the Society, and is freely available to all on the BAHS website. The website also, amongst other things, hosts LIBRAL (Library of Irish and British Rural and Agricultural Literature), which provides direct free access to digitised literature on the subject. The Libral site is currently undergoing an upgrade (Libral 3.0) which will become available in 2018

Grants

The Society offers grants to individuals, societies and institutions in the furtherance of its objects. During the year £2195 grants and bursaries were taken up, including contributions to support research conferences and workshops in Reading,

Nottingham, Galway and at the Farmers Club, London. An award of £500 was made from the Joan Thirsk Fund

The society also supports EURHO (The European Rural History Organisation) with a grant/subscription: and is a member of the British Association for Local History.

Conferences

The Annual Conference was held at Plumpton College, Lewes, Sussex, in April 2017 and the Winter Conference at the Senate House, University of London in December 2017.

Membership

Subscription for individual members currently remains at £20 per year for UK members, £30 for European members and £40 for other members worldwide, with a reduced subscription of £5 for students. Most new members join through the website, paying by PayPal. The Society continues to provide the journal to institutions worldwide. Electronic access to the *Review* via Ingenta is provided free for individual members and institutional subscribers.

Accounts for the Year to 31 January 2018

The Society made a deficit of £1702 – compared with a surplus of £11890 in the previous year. This was accounted for largely by costs associated with adding titles to Libral (£5856), and grants this year of £2195, compared with no grants the previous year. Publication costs were also up, due to increased costs associated with the *Review*. Both our Membership numbers and our Institutional subscribers remained at broadly the same level as last year. Our Spring and Winter Conferences both made a small loss. Costs of administration, and officers' expenses were all up slightly. There were no significant items of income not yet received or expenditure not yet invoiced other than those indicated in the balance sheet, and the Society has no significant advanced commitments. We hold a conservative, largely risk-free, range of investments on which we make notional gains and losses year by year. These gains can only be realised by sale. The Joan Thirsk Fund made its first award of £500, reducing the balance to £1370.

Reserves Policy

The Society's policy is, taking one year with the next, to spend the income it receives in pursuit of its objectives, while setting aside any surpluses to cover future projects, and to generate future income to support the society's grants and awards. The Society has no Restricted Funds. Its Unrestricted Funds currently

stand at £113,089 out of which two Designated Funds have been set aside by the Trustees, as follows

Designated Projects and Initiatives Fund, currently standing at £21,584. This is set aside to pay for new and continuing activities which cannot readily be funded from in-year revenue. Expenditure from this fund is at the discretion of the Trustees, but in particular is expected to provide for the future development of the website, and the Libral digitisation project.

Research and Grants Fund, currently standing at £44,160. This is intended to be an investment fund, the income from which will be used for the provision of grants and donations to support new research, and events such as conferences, awards and publications in the Society's area of agricultural and rural history. In addition, the Trustees consider it prudent to aim to maintain reserves at a high level until the outcome of 'Brexit' is clearer, as this may well have profound implications for agriculture and shape the future direction of research we may wish to fund.

The Unrestricted, Undesignated balance of our reserves stands at £47,345, equivalent to approximately a year's current expenditure. It is the intention of the Trustees to aim to maintain this fund at a level sufficient to cover seasonal and unexpected fluctuations between income and expenditure, without having to sell any of our investments, which might incur significant losses.

Dr William D Shannon
March 2018

THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

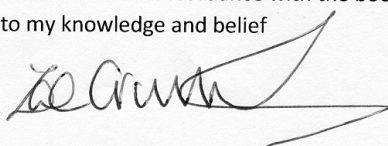
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JANUARY 2018

	£	£
	2017-18	2016-17
CURRENT ASSETS		
Treasurer's Account	24155	40355
M&G Charibond	35739	31872
NS Income Bond	26000	26000
CAF Income Fund	18160	18452
COIF Charities Ethical Investment Account	21584	20000
Cash in hand		192
	125,638	136,871
Debtors & Prepayments	5262	1187
	<u>130,900</u>	<u>138,058</u>
Less:		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Subscriptions in advance	16266	16362
Spring conference Fees in Advance		720
Joan Thirsk Award Fund	1370	1870
Sundry Creditors		3884
Review & RHT Production		
Examiners Fee	175	150
Casual labour		0
Ingenta		281
	<u>17811</u>	<u>23267</u>
TOTAL ASSETS less CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u><u>113089</u></u>	<u><u>114791</u></u>
RESERVES as at 31 January 2017	114791	102901
Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	-1702	11890
RESERVES as at 31 January 2018	<u><u>113089</u></u>	<u><u>114791</u></u>
Represented by:		
Restricted Reserves	nil	
Designated Reserves		
Research & Grants Fund	44,160	
Projects & initiatives		
Fund	21,584	
Unrestricted, undesignated funds	<u>47,345</u>	<u>114791</u>
	<u><u>113,089</u></u>	<u><u>114791</u></u>

The above Balance Sheet is in accordance with the books and records furnished to me and is correct to my knowledge and belief

Z.CRUMBY
Examiner

Date


26.3.18

THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the period 1 February 2017 to 31 January 2018

INCOME		£	£	EXPENDITURE		£	£
		2017-18	2016-17			2017-18	2016-17
Subscriptions		9038	8919	Production and Despatch Review		19146	14442
Journal Sales		21344	22566	Copy Editing the Review		1800	1250
Sales of Back Issues & Publications		42	0				
Royalties		2874	2370	Rural History Today		4055	5380
Gift Aid Refund		1234	1188				
Gold Open Access			0	Executive Committee Expenses		2647	2346
				Editors Expenses			
Spring Conference Fees	6475		8349	Assistant Treasurers' Fees		2172	1709
Less Spring Conference Charges							
Spring Conference Expenses	6799		7722	Examiners Fee		188	150
		-324	627				
Winter Conference Fees	1260		960	Office Costs		850	555
Less Winter Conference Charges				Casual Labour		500	400
Winter Conference Expenses	1411		1223	Website Maintenance		1895	1134
		-151	-263				
After Brexit Conference - Net of Expenses		-20	0	EURHO Grant and Subscription		552	570
				PayPal charges		233	234
Interest on CAF Deposit Account		592	632	BALH Subscription		75	65
Interest on National Savings Bond		222	288	Research Grants		2195	0
Interest on CAF Bond Income Fund		0	1	Libral		5856	0
Interest on COIF Deposit		730	0	Laptop		277	0
M & G Charifund Gain		3866	3526				
CAF Income Fund Loss/Gain		-292	271				
COIF Income Fund Loss/Gain		1584	0				
Excess of Expenditure over Income		1702		Excess of Income over Expenditure			11890
		<u>42441</u>	<u>40125</u>			<u>42441</u>	<u>40125</u>



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report
on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On accounts for the year
ended

31.1.18

Charity no
(if any)

251851

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. [The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [named body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

23.18